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October 23, 1986

Dear Mike,

You might want to include this note along with the newspaper article. The Burlington Free Press has not been very equitable since their new publisher, Donna Donovan, took over. The letter I sent to her, also enclosed, was "Refused, return to sender". The contributing writer, Stephen Casimiro, is a member of "Students Against The CIA".

The original plans of the group, headed by Brian Perkins, was to attempt a citizens arrest of one of the recruiters (on grounds of conspiracy to commit a felony) as part of a larger protest against CIA recruiting on campus. The group had planned to block all the doorways into the campus Center for Career Development and harass all potential recruits who came for interviews. The group has connections to several other campus organizations, and a well-developed network of workers that planned to leaflet the campus, and raise a big enough crowd to shut down the recruiting process. To that end they were able to gather only 60 people on the day of the interviews (10/21/86).

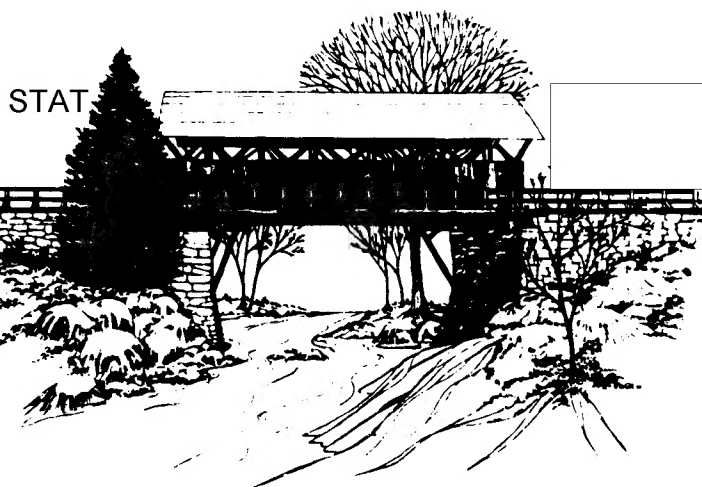
The movement of the interview site to the Federal building did several things. One, the protest group gathered on campus at the old site, and were unaware of the shift in locations. The newspaper notes that 60 people marched to the federal building and sat down in the Post Office lobby. Actually, only about 20 people made the trek, the rest went home disappointed, some piqued that "this whole thing has been very poorly planned". The 20 or so hard-core members did not know where in the building the interviews were being held, and settled for a token "sit-in" at the Post Office lobby. The sit-in was less than 45 minutes, rather than an hour, and the "pushing affair" was overblown. Police brutality consisted of a hand on a young man's chest and a gentle reminder not to come into a restricted area.

What was neglected in the article was that the Young Republican's leadership, headed by Dave McLaughlin showed up and, at my request, tried to engage the protesters in a dialogue. The protesters had other things to do, however, and quickly broke up and went out partying to celebrate their "victory" over the CIA.

To my knowledge, not one potential recruit was intercepted, nor were any of the Agency's people ever confronted on any level. I will be attending the next public meeting, as I did the last, of the "Students Against The CIA" Thursday, the 30th. It made quite an impression among some of the students that AFIO's educational coordinator would come to their meeting and make himself available for question and answer. The session was cut short by two of the teachers who attended who saw what was happening, and declared "Process!" and returned to their agenda. I was able to speak to two youngsters following the meeting, but the rest appeared somewhat intimidated. Didn't want to be seen talking to the "enemy" I suppose. Anyway, every little bit helps.

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September 21, 1986

Donna M. Donovan
Burlington Free Press
P.O. Box 10
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Ms. Donovan:

By training and personality I am a very accommodative person, and I practice trying to view events through other people's eyes. I am at a complete loss, however, to explain or understand the behavior of the editors of the Free Press towards the Vermont Symposium on Intelligence and Foreign Policy. Other than the \$400 ads that we placed with the Free Press the Symposium received no attention whatsoever. Paging through the local section of the paper I read about dog dipping in Jeffersonville, announcements of a visiting Nicaraguan Transport Minister, and an upcoming Conference on Women Leaders, but nothing about our Symposium.

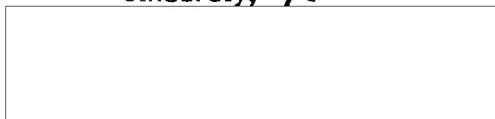
Dr. Taplin, of Stowe, and I wrote, phoned, and visited the various offices of the Free Press, the city editor's office, the editorial editor's office, the feature editor's office, and yet we were unable to obtain even an announcement in small type in the "What's Happening" section of the paper.

Five of our speakers are Vermonters, notable authors, academica, and intelligence professionals. Three of our speakers are widely known experts in their field of history, U.S. foreign affairs, and international relations. We had 120 participants from all over New England. Our participants were able to comment authoritatively for WCAX TV on current terrorist attacks, the Daniloff affair, and other matters of current interest, yet, not a word in the BFP about any of it. I can't help but believe that the readers of the Free Press deserve better journalistic standards than that.

I am not writing just as an individual, but on behalf of the New England Chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, and the organizers of the Vermont Symposium on Intelligence and Foreign Policy. The goal of AFIO in these symposia is to promote a free and informed dialogue on the issues surrounding intelligence and our country's foreign policy. We would like to win some cooperation with northern Vermont's biggest and most widely read daily newspaper towards that end. Incidentally, we are not interested in confrontation. This is a personal letter to the editor, not intended for the editorial page.

Sincerely, / -

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Association of Former Intelligence Officers

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Free Press Photo by JYM WILSON

UVM Recruitment Protesters Claim Victory Over CIA

By KATHLEEN H. COOLEY

Free Press Staff Writer

About 60 protesters claimed victory Wednesday in the lobby of the Federal Building because the Central Intelligence Agency was interviewing University of Vermont students there rather than on campus.

"We've had our voices heard," said Brian Perkins, a UVM senior who organized the protest. "We have raised the cost of having the CIA come to Burlington."

Carrying banners and signs bearing anti-CIA slogans, the protesters marched from the UVM campus through downtown Burlington to the Federal Building at Elmwood Avenue and Pearl Street.

Protesters gathered peacefully for about an hour in the Post Office lobby to call attention to the CIA's covert action in Central America.

Slogans were chanted and songs were sung. Accusations of CIA atrocities were stated as CIA representatives in one of the building's federal offices interviewed 15 of the 50 UVM seniors who were interested in jobs with the federal agency.

The CIA has sent recruiting representatives to Burlington for at least 14 years, said Lawrence R. Simmons, director of UVM's career development.

CIA recruitment for such jobs as engineering and clerical positions have routinely been conducted on campus at the Center for Career Development, Simmons said. But when evidence mounted earlier in the week that students would picket at the interviews, the CIA moved to the Federal Building.

"It was a tactical retreat for the

UVM's Simmons said Wednesday's protest will probably have little effect on whether the CIA will send recruitment officers to Burlington.

"My guess is that they will come back next year," Simmons said. "If they found no good students here for a couple of years maybe they would stop coming."

The 50 seniors who submitted applications to the CIA Wednesday made this the second largest turnout since 1972, Simmons said. Three years ago, when a similar protest was staged, 64 students filed out CIA applications.

Burlington police sent 12 officers to the protest site but no arrests were made.

One tense moment occurred when a federal officer confiscated a protester's sign. When protesters Jennifer Strickler and Gil McCann tried to enter past a metal detector to retrieve the sign, they were pushed back by officers.

Two students representing UVM College Republicans said they came to the protest to denounce the student's action.

"I can't understand why people our age are sitting down on the floor like this," said Dave MacLaughlin, president of the organization. "The CIA has every right in the world to come to campus."

Simmons said employers are brought to campus on the basis of whether they need job applicants.

"The decision to bring employers to campus is not a moral decision," Simmons said. "If there is enough student interest to have a certain employer ... it is our job to bring the students and the employers together."

ter Stephen Casimiro contrib-
this report.

Demonstrators protesting recruitment by the CIA at the University of Vermont sit and lie at the